GSA

ANSWER IT

July, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 10

Inside this Issue:

First *DSL[1]* Program Meeting Nets Business Website Partnership

ANSWER SDC Staff

On June 7th, a program management meeting for the *DSL[1]* Contract was hosted by *DSL[1]* partner Chuck Zumbaugh of CAIS and conducted by Ann Gladys, Paul Martin, and Jill Schillinger of the ANSWER SDC. The event was attended by 18 representatives from the 10 prime contractors and 5 representatives from GSA/FTS including representatives from the *DSL[1]* mentor region, Dennis Wholey and Peter Dauderis. Ann Gladys, Director of the ANSWER SDC, commenced the proceedings with a Best Practices presentation focusing on building business through viable partnerships. Paul Martin, PCO for the contract, led discussions on contract parameters and Jill Schillinger, Action Officer for the contract, facilitated the meeting and brought focus to bear on specific marketing initiatives.

The meeting also included a special session with telecommuting experts from OPM and GSA. Dr. Wendell Joice and Theresa Noll, from the Office of Government Wide Policy of GSA, and Paula Lucak, from the OPM's Office of Workforce Relations focusing on Teleworking, shared insights concerning the current status of the telecommuting environment. With recent legislation requiring 25% of the eligible government workforce to telecommute, pressure is on to find adequate technology to meet teleworker communication needs. The working session revolved around how the *DSL[1]* contract is a viable option for teleworking requirements.

After a highly productive program meeting on June 7th, the *DSL[1]* Partners joined forces to establish a client pre-qualification and proposal site. The website, accessible thru http://answer.gsa.gov, is designed for project managers/ordering officials/clients interested in finding out if a site is located in an area that qualifies for DSL service. The site provides a single point of entry to qualifying for and receiving proposals for DSL support. The overall effort was spearheaded and facilitated by *DSL[1]* partner Ray Bolouri of Net Connections Corp.

Safeguard BPA is "Tech Refreshed"

Sheila Leonard

Over the past two months, the ANSWER SDC along with Safeguard's Program Manager, Don Carlson and members of the Safeguard Program Office, worked together to technically refresh, clarify scope, and address potential organizational conflict of interest language for the Safeguard BPAs. The modification provides the Center of Information Security Services (CISS) a more comprehensive approach to addressing the requirements associated with Information Assurance. CISS has been very active in working with client agencies throughout the Federal Government to provide IT security via the Safeguard BPA vehicle. The 27 Safeguard BPAs, having an

ANSWER PCO Issues Tech Refresh II Modification

Thelma Riusaki

On June 28th, a modification to incorporate 19 new skill levels into ANSWER was issued. The addition of these new skill levels was a result of the Second Annual Technical Refreshment ANSWER Summit in March 2001. The summit, attended by FTS and Industry Partners from across the country, contributed insights to areas of technical evolution and constructed a strawman for the modification. Expanding the number and type of contract skill levels to include additional identified special personnel skills and to refine definitions of existing skill levels, by means of a technology refreshment action, not only saves administrative time but also enhances contractor performance without

estimated value of $250M per BPA, were awarded 4/99 and run thru 9/30/03. Functional support areas worldwide include; Critical Infrastructure, Asset Identification, Vulnerability Assessment & Threat Identification, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Readiness & Contingency Planning, Physical Infrastructure Protection, Information Systems Security & Information Assurance, and Emergency Preparedness, Training, Exercises & Simulations.

─────────────

ANSWER SDC Partners with FEDSIM to support EPA

Sheila Leonard

The ANSWER SDC in partnership with FedSim's Project Manager, Frank Pruitt, is providing procurement support for EPA's requirement for a Pollution Reduction and Emissions Tracking System. Planning meetings took place the week of 6/18 in Washington and clarified a number of acquisition issues. The process is currently in the acquisition strategy stage with a focus on developing; a notice to industry, a request for proposal, and other pre-award documents.

─────────────

An Update on Connections

Paul Martin

A considerable amount of feedback was received following the Connections RFI. A draft RFP for the Connections procurement is anticipated later this month.

expanding the scope of ANSWER. More importantly, the modification positions FTS to continue to bring clients the very best in IT solutions. Functional areas receiving the most attention in this year's tech refresh included; Section 508, Supply Chain Management, Telecommunications, Business Continuity Planning, and Higher End Scientific Specialists.

─────────────

Solutions Edu Attracts Students from Network Services

Mimi Bruce

During the week of 6/11, Solutions Edu conducted a seminar on Performance-Based Statements of Work in Denver. For this session, more than half of the students were from Network Services, creating a class composition unlike most Solutions Edu classes which are attended primarily by students from IT Solutions. As with all of the courses thus far, the instructor tailored the curriculum to the student population to provide a course of instruction with which the student could directly relate. Overall, class participants expressed satisfaction with the course and came away with a better understanding of procurement and performance based SOWs as they relate to task orders issued in a multiple award contracting environment.

FedLearn, Defense Acquisition University, and ANSWER SDC Meet to Forge Partnership

Mimi Bruce

On June 26th, prior to the FGIPC Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, a meeting was held to discuss ANSWER as a vehicle of choice for the upcoming $100M DAU distributed learning requirement. The meeting was composed of; nine ANSWER Primes, Mr. Bill Jackson of GSA's FedLearn, Colonel William McNally of DAU, and three members of the ANSWER SDC, Ann Gladys, Sherrie Householder, and Mimi Bruce. Topics of discussion included; "Why use ANSWER?", performance based initiatives, "How does ANSWER incorporate teaming members?", ANSWER's Best Practices, current performance ratings, educational initiatives, and the value-add that the ANSWER SDC brings to bear. The Colonel plans to use this material as part of his decision making process.

SDC Director Briefs Canadian Officials

Sherrie Householder

On June 5th, the ANSWER SDC Director, Ann Gladys, in partnership with Dave Blottie, ANSWER Program Manager for SAIC, briefed Canadian officials on ANSWER's best practices. The presentation was provided for several officials including Jane Billings, Assistant Deputy Minister for Supply Operations and Services for Public Works and Government Services Commission. Ms. Billings effectively runs the central procurement function in Canada and is considered a procurement reformer. The objective of Ms. Billings' visit was to gain insight into how she might modernize and streamline the Canadian procurement process by gaining an understanding of how the US Government has been able to revolutionize the Federal procurement processes.

Events
July/August

Date: 7/9-7/10/01
Location: Fort Worth, TX
Event: Solutions Edu
Contracting for Svcs / MA/IDIQ

Date: 7/23-7/26/01
Location: Wash D.C. NCR
Event: Solutions Edu
Project Management

Date: 7/24/01
Location: Fort Worth, TX
Event: Regional Program Mtg.

Date: 7/25/01
Location: Denver, CO
Event: Regional Program Mtg.

Date: 7/30-8/3/01
Location: Millington, TN
Event: Solutions Edu PBSOW

Date: 8/6-8/10/01
Location: USAREUR, Germany
Event: Solutions Edu
Eval Contractor Perf

Date: 8/13-8/17/01
Location: Washington, DC FEDSIM
Event: Solutions Edu PBSOW

ANSWER POCs

Thelma Riusaki
ANSWER PCO
510.637.3880

Sheila Leonard
Safeguard PCO
510.637.3893

Mimi Bruce
Client Service Director
510.637.3890

Paul Martin
DSL[1] PCO
510.637.3884

Lyle Hull
Director, Business Development
858.537.2204

Jill Schillinger
Business Development Manager
858.530.3177

Sherrie Householder
Solutions Edu PM/Provost
858.537.2210

Ann Gladys
Director, ANSWER SDC
858.537.2201

GSA Federal Technology Service